

May 2011

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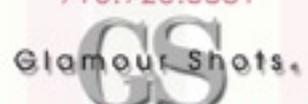


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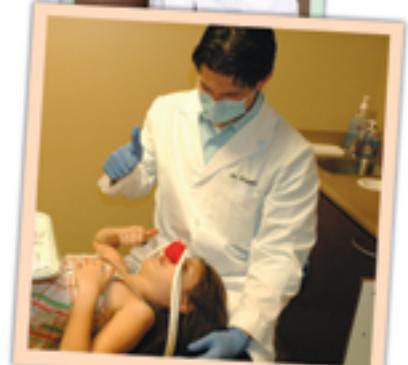
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Distribution/Subscriptions: George Macko

California Kids! is published monthly and distributed to more than 1,000 locations in the Sacramento Valley, including all of Sacramento County, and portions of Yolo (Davis and Woodland), Placer (Auburn, Newcastle, Rocklin and Roseville), El Dorado (Cameron Park, El Dorado Hills, Placerville), and Nevada (Grass Valley, Nevada City) counties.

Subscriptions are available for \$30/year. Mail prepaid check or money order to California Kids!, 2709 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95818. Make sure to specify the person and address to which you wish issues to be mailed.

Deadlines for advertising and calendar listings are the 25th of the month prior to publication. Calendar listings should be mailed to 2709 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95818, faxed to (916) 429-9906, or e-mailed to kathleen@valcomnews.com.

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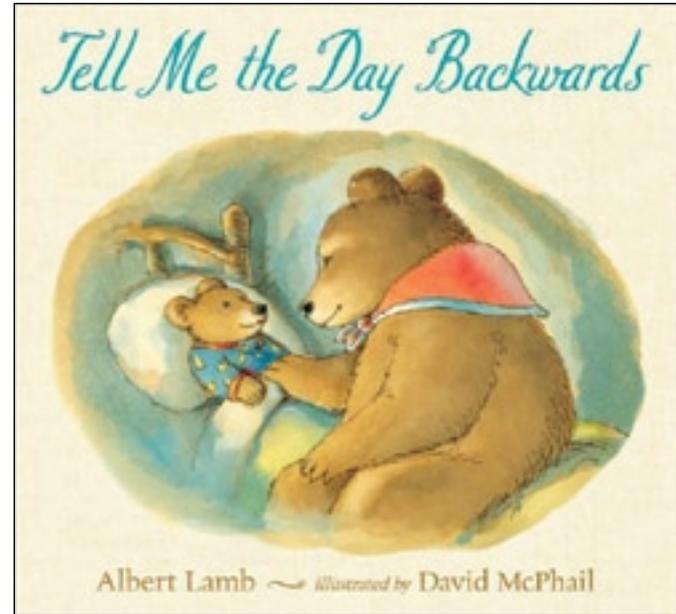
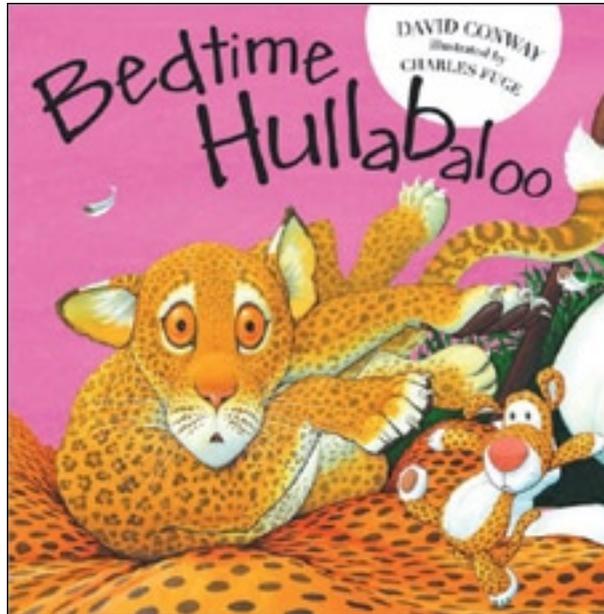
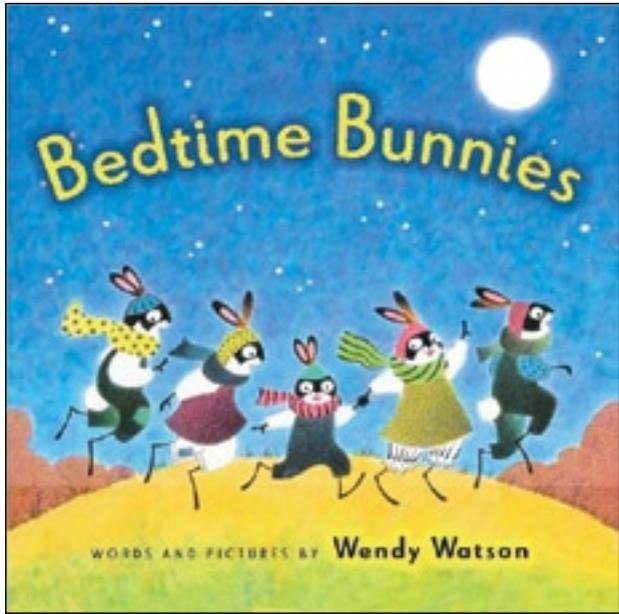
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| Friday, June 17th | Saturday, July 30 |
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The Book Report Bedtime Stories

By **Connie Goldsmith**

Every parent has struggled to put a cranky toddler to bed – it’s practically a rite of passage. Reading a bedtime story together can smooth the way to sleep and sweet dreams. Story time is a standard ritual for many families. If you’re not reading to your child at bedtime, give it a try – it just might work. It can also instill a life-long love of reading. “*Good Night Moon*,” is not the only bedtime book out there. Take a look at one of these to send your little one off to sleep.

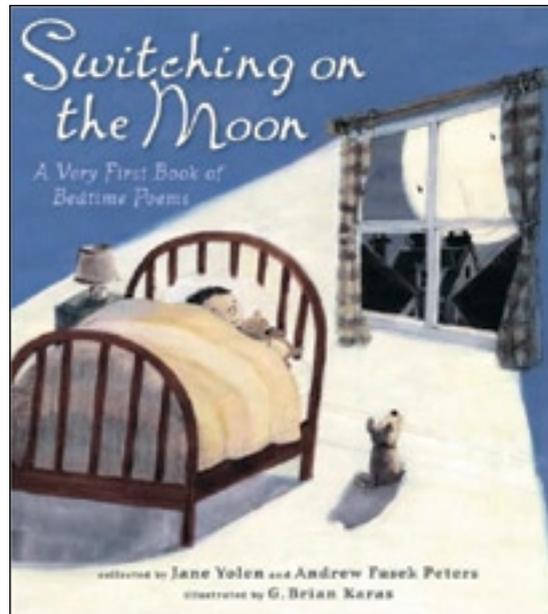
“*Bedtime Hullabaloo*,” by David Conway, illustrated by Charles Fuge. (Walker). It’s bedtime on the savannah and Leopard is ready to call it a night. But wait. “What a hullabaloo!” Leopard takes off to discover the cause of the terrible racket keeping him awake. Along the way, he picks up Giraffe, Baboon, and a host of other tired critters who can’t sleep because of the hullabaloo. The animals find not a raucous rhino or a cacophonous hippopotamus, but a tiny shrew dressed in a pink tutu that snores VERY loudly. What happens next will tickle the tired toddler. Kids will enjoy the alliterative wordplay and the animals’ realistic expressions. The art is bright and colorful. Watch out for the details.

“*Bedtime Bunnies*,” by Wendy Watson. (Clarion). With five bunny sibs and four words per spread, this sweetly simple story will appeal to the very youngest. Bunny parents call the youngsters into the house one evening and start the comfortably familiar nightly tasks that help so

many kids get to sleep. Dinner first: “Chomp. Munch. Gobble. Crunch.” Then it’s time for the tub: “Swish. Slosh. Bubble. Splash.” And on to lights out: “Quiet. Shush. Hush. Shhh.” Full of anticipation for the next day, the littlest bunny can’t take his eyes off the snow falling outside the windows. Set inside a comfy hollow tree, the bunny home is cozy and inviting. The softly smudgy art is drawn in watercolor, pencil, and acrylic paint in soothing autumn colors. It’s a perfect match for the sweet words.

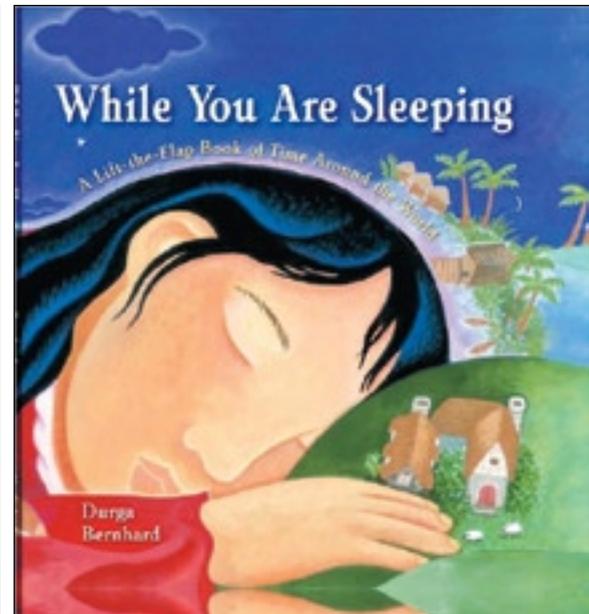
“*Switching on the Moon: A Very First Book of Bedtime Poems*,” collected by Jane Yolen and Andrew Fusek Peters, illustrated by G. Brian Karas. (Candlewick). This must-have book collects sixty poems and divides them into three chapters: “Going to Sleep,” “Sweet Dreams,” and “In the Night.” Some are familiar favorites, others are a new delight. Reading one or two aloud each night will speed the way to sleep and happy dreams. The spectacular art is done in gouache, acrylic, and pencil. The images, many of which are double-page spreads, add luminous magic to the words. This lovely book is perfect for a family heirloom, meant to be kept and cherished for the next generation.

“*While You Are Sleeping: A Lift-The-Flap Book of Time Around the World*,” by Durga Bernhard. (Charlesbridge). This clever book opens with a mother reading to her child at 10:00 pm in Alaska. “While you are reading, on the other side of the world, someone is getting dressed.” You lift the flap



to see a girl in Nigeria knotting a scarf on her head at 9:00 am. Turn the page to see the Nigerian girl strolling through her village. Lift the flap to see two boys walking home at 5:00 pm in Japan. Each page shows a tiny map of the country, a clock, and scenes of children doing time-appropriate activities. Young readers will quickly grasp the concept of how time marches around the world, and why one child is waking up as another is going to bed. The colorful art is warm, restful, and meant to lead a child into sleep by the end of the story. *** **Reviewer’s Pick of the Month**

“*Tell Me the Day Backwards*,” by Albert Lamb, illustrated by David McPhail. (Candlewick). Timmy Bear and Mama Bear begin bedtime with a special ritual all their own. Timmy wants to tell Mama about his day – backwards. “Tonight before I got into bed, I brushed my teeth in the stream,” he begins. Together they review the day’s highlights from watching the sun go down, dinner with Papa Bear, and his run-in with bees.



Each page ends with Mama asking, “And what happened before that?” It continues right back to the night before when Mama tucked in Timmy. Not surprisingly, it ends with Mama tucking in Timmy tonight. This is an unusual and charming bedtime story, certain to appeal to mamas and babies alike, whatever their species.

Connie Goldsmith www.conniegoldsmith.com lives in Carmichael where she writes for adults and children. Her newest nonfiction juvenile books, “*Battling Malaria: on the Front Lines Against a Global Killer*,” and “*Skin Cancer*,” one of the new USA Today Health Reports series, came out this fall. Her books can be found in school and public libraries, and at online booksellers.



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Live Sheep Shearing at Fairytale Town

Farmer Brown showcases Fairytale Town's friendly barnyard animals at the Fourth Annual Farms, Friends and Fairytales event. On Saturday, May 21, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., visitors can see Fairytale Town's twin Babydoll sheep, Lucy and Ethel, lose their winter coats with an old fashioned sheep shearing. Then the fun continues as a wool spinner, spins the wool on a spinning wheel to create yarn. Another unique activity is a yummy one! Children can learn how to make their very own ice cream. Farms, Friends and Fairytales is an annual event that is not to be missed.

Children and parents alike during the event will learn about each of the facility's animals, which include unique and miniature breeds such as Fairytale Town's latest addition, a Hereford Cow who just turned 1 year old, and others such as a miniature Sicilian Donkey, Nigerian Dwarf Goats, Vietnamese Pot Bellied Pigs, and rabbits. Farmer Brown will showcase Fairytale Town's animals and share information on their care and maintenance, and their daily lives interacting with park guests.

Farms, Friends and Fairytales is a celebration of everything agriculture. Families can visit with a variety of organizations who help bring agricultural products to market. While you wander the grounds learning all about agriculture, you can listen to live music provided by the Loose Acoustic Trio, and visit with our Barnyard Buddies who live at Fairytale Town. At this event children will not only recall the familiar nursery rhymes that include these animals, but learn how they contribute to our society and lives.

"Most urban children don't have the chance to see live farm animals. Fairytale Town is a unique environment where we can combine teaching how these animals contribute to our society and represent the fairytales children know so well. It's one more opportunity to help promote literacy and education - which is our core mission," said Kathy Fleming, Fairytale Town's Executive Director.

Admission is \$4.50 per person; children age 1 and under are admitted free. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. For more information, call (916) 808-7462 or visit www.fairytaletown.org

Puppet Mania at Fairytale Town

Delighting the hearts and spirits of children of all ages, The Annual Puppet Festival, has returned to the Children's Theater at Fairytale Town. For more than twenty years, Puppet Art Theater has been performing at Fairytale Town. Don't miss your chance to see classic fairytales retold in an artful and hilarious manner. Performances are offered, Wednesdays through Sundays. Weekday show times are: 10:30, 11:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. Weekend show times are: 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30 p.m. In addition to paid park admission, tickets are \$1 members and \$2 nonmembers. Children 1 and under are admitted for free.

May 11-22, Tommy's Train Troubles

Tommy has never been more bored! He thought his train trip to his aunt's house would be quite an adventure but so far it was nothing like he had expected. That is until an Old Conductor tells Tommy the train they are traveling on is carrying a load of gold to Fort Knox! Join Tommy as he tries to protect the gold from the infamous train robber, Stinky Cheese Velveeta.

May 25 to June 5, The Boy Who Cried Wolf

An updated zany version of a classic tale. The boy is bored watching his lamb and decides to make things more exciting by turning on his dad's wolf alarm, the "Wolf Alert 3000." Tricking his dad is all fun and games until a real wolf shows up. Will the audience help the boy escape from the wolf? Find out in "The Boy Who Cried Wolf."

June 8 to June 26, Jack and the Bean Stalk

Jack has traded his cow for magic wishing beans much to his mother's dismay. In frustration, Jack's mom tosses the beans out the window where they grow into a huge beanstalk. Jack goes up the beanstalk and the adventure begins!

Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Drive, in William Land Park, Sacramento. For more information, call (916) 808-7462 or visit www.fairytaletown.org.

ZooBiz

Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., California Celebration, Festival of the Arts and Cultural Diversity

Come to the Sacramento Zoo for a day of cultural entertainment, art, music, dance and information from the rich cultural diversity that defines California. Art will be on display and for purchase from local and distinguished artists. Local museums, historical societies, genealogy groups, plus arts and crafts for great family fun all included with regular admission.

May 2, 9 and 16 (Mondays), 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Senior Tea and Tour

Have a pleasant cup of tea and a guided tour of the Sacramento Zoo! Designed especially for seniors ages 55 and over, your group will be met by Docents (volunteer educators) and will tour part of the Zoo. During the tea break you'll be served lemonade, tea, coffee, finger sandwiches, breads, and cookies. Seniors, register for this popular event early! Tours begin at 9:30 a.m. and two weeks advance reservations are required. This program is for adults 55 and over. Call (916) 808-5889 for more information or register at saczoo.org.

Monday, May 23, 11:30 a.m., Swingin' Safari Gold Tournament

Come out swinging for the Sacramento Zoo at the Tenth Annual Golf Tournament at El Macero Country Club. Think you are a pretty good golfer? Get ready for a swinging-good time for golf, food, prizes and the wildest putting contest in the Sacramento area! The 10th annual golf tournament supports the Sacramento Zoological Society's educational programs. Every year, the education programs at the Sacramento Zoo reach students of all ages with on-site programming and community outreach. Your support will expand the Sacramento Zoo's role as an educational and recreational facility for the community to enjoy. For more information, call (916) 808-5166 or register online at saczoo.org.

Sacramento Zoo - Wildly Inspiring!

Open since 1927, the Sacramento Zoo is home to over 450 native, rare and endangered animals and is one of over 200 accredited institutions of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Located near the corner of Land Park Drive and Sutterville Road in William Land Park, the Zoo is wholly managed by the non-profit Sacramento Zoological Society. This Sacramento treasure inspires conservation awareness through education and recreation. Open daily from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, general admission is \$11.00; children ages 2-11 are \$7.00 and one and under are admitted free. Parking is free throughout the park or ride Regional Transit bus #6. For information, call 916-808-5888 or visit saczoo.org.



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Exploring the Last Frontier on Holland America's Zuiderdam

By Carmel L. Mooney

We've had the pleasure of taking many family cruises over the years but one of our favorites of all time was aboard Holland America Line's Zuiderdam to Alaska. It's Alaska cruising season again so pack your bags and delight in one of the most spectacular family cruise itineraries in existence.

We started out our unforgettable voyage by flying from Sacramento to beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia. The night before our sailing we enjoyed staying at the gorgeous Pan Pacific Vancouver with a breathtaking view of the port and the bay. A delightful pool and spectacular food at the Cafe Pacifica, only add to the overall exceptional quality of this property.

The whole family loved the excitement of waking up in the morning and seeing our ship waiting for embarkation.

Holland America has one of the best children's programs on the sea. It's top notch quality and fun to boot. Over the years our children have sampled numerous cruise programs for kids and on this last Alaska voyage, our tween fell hook, line, and sinker for Club HAL's youth program. Wonderful crafts, parties, activities, shows, computer games, movie nights, and contests all geared towards kids of various age levels, puts this wonderful on board program in a class all its own. Something unique to Holland America is the Culinary Arts Center's kid programs presented by Food & Wine Magazine.

Our tween and all her new friends loved learning to create culinary masterpieces in this Kids-in-the-Kitchen program, all enjoyed in a full size dedicated kitchen with stage and audience.

In addition to all the usual outstanding shows and exercise classes, pools, dance classes, high teas, spa, and Bingo, our family and others enjoyed specially tailored family contests like the Family Foto Hunt and Family Trivia challenges. It was the perfect blend of options for just the grown-ups, just the kids, and family fun together.

Parents will appreciate the frequent casino tournaments and the beautiful on board spa. Thermal suites and hydrotherapy pool, beauty salon, massages, and manicure & pedicure area are even more options for mom and dad to be pampered in peace and luxury while the kids are impeccably supervised at Club HAL.

Another Holland American specialty are the Digital Workshops offered on board where newbies to the technical world can learn in a fun, low-key, and



non-intimidating way, how to share digital memories through email, blogging, and social networking. This allows cruisers a way to share their newly learned technological tricks so that friends and family can catch a glimpse of where they've been on their cruise, long before they even return home. Microsoft trained "techsperts" show even novice camera and computer users how to take better vacation photos and create scrapbooks.

"Guests have given the workshops rave reviews since we began offering them," said Richard D. Meadows, CTC executive vice president, marketing, sales, and guest programs.

All that computer training may make you hungry and Holland America has that base covered for families and covered nicely.

Of course kids menus are always available but thankfully our kids have always enjoyed eating what we eat.

Our tween's favorites on the Zuiderdam included Grilled Lamb Chops, lobster bisque, Apricot Glazed Salmon, Fillet Mignon, and of course The Gold Rush Baked Alaska and Chocolate Decadence Cake.

What can I say? She has good taste and mom and dad agree with her selections. Older kids and parents often enjoy ordering free room service where they can take some down time to relax in their cabin watching a movie or just enjoying the views as they appear off the cabin balcony. Sometimes room service delivered cookies, cakes, brownies or just a plain PB&J might fit the bill nicely during a respite between activities.

Our wonderful Alaska cruise itinerary aboard the Zuiderdam began with scenic cruising through the inside passage and Tracy Arm and on to Juneau, Skagway, Glacier National Park, Ketchikan, finally returning back to Vancouver.

What we liked best about the Zuiderdam was that being a mid-sized ship with an excellent passenger to space ratio, we were able to have alone time as a family as much or as little as we wished. Many times we'd find our own little private spot to sit in awe of the calving glaciers and abundant wildlife. It was spectacular, literally, to enjoy the comforts of the



Kids can create culinary masterpieces in the Kids-in-the-Kitchen program while parents enjoy the spectacular view.

Zuiderdam while watching whales breach, bears frolicking on beaches, and orcas swimming alongside. An onboard naturalist pointing out the various species, really added to the enjoyment and educational factor for all ages.

Holland America offers the best shore excursions in the industry with well over a hundred different possibilities. Everything from adrenaline junkie fare, to tame shopping tours and everything in between insure that your family can see any side of Alaska that they wish. Glacier tours, dog sledding, float plane tours, helicopter adventures, rafting, kayaking, bicycling, canoeing, zip lining, Jeep tours, you name it...they have you covered. We decided to try the Chilkoot Trail Hike and Float for one of our shore excursions and could not have been more pleased with our decision. Hiking the gorgeous historic trail and then floating on a raft down the gentle Taiya river with our excellent guide, proved to be a fascinating and educational experience that gave us a glimpse into the wilds of Alaska.

In our opinion, the pinnacle of the trip was taking the Neets Bay

Bear Watch by Float plane adventure where we were flown out to a remote location. There we loved watching dozens of bears up close as they played and fed at a salmon hatchery. It was one of the most unforgettable shore excursions we have ever had the pleasure to experience.

Although Holland America is known for its exemplary cruise experience, it is gaining respect for its Environmental Commitment. Waste reduction, recycling, and cleaner-burning propulsion technology meets and in most cases exceeds the international regulations and industry standards. With environmental awards too long to list, they are setting the stage and the standard for other lines.

It's almost Alaska cruise season and it's certainly time to start planning that family or multi-generational cruise vacation that the clan will never forget. Holland America is the perfect way in which to explore the Last Frontier in comfort, safety, and luxury.

You can read more about "everything travel" in Carmel's online magazine: www.roadtripsforcouples.com.



Crocker Art Museum Events

Youth and Family Programs - Wednesdays, May 4, 11, 18 and 25, 11 a.m.

Wee Wednesday

Bring your little one and yourself to this gallery-based art activity for children ages three to five. This is a family program and space is limited. Signup begins at 10 a.m. on the day of the event at the Museum Admission Desk. Free with Museum admission. This program is funded by the First 5 Sacramento Commission.

Tuesday, May 10, 12-2 p.m. - Homeschool Day

Homeschool and family groups are invited to visit the Museum regularly for thematic gallery adventures designed to intrigue children ages six and older. Advance registration is suggested. For pricing specifics and registration, visit crockerartmuseum.org or call (916) 808-1182.

Saturday, May 14, 1 p.m., Sunday, May 15, 11 a.m. - Drop, Yak, Splat! A Museum Adventure for Families

Different artworks will provide inspiration for a memorable gallery experience for families and children of all ages. Signup begins one hour before the start time. Free with Museum admission.

Sunday, May 15, 1 to 3 p.m. - Opening Reception: Meaning and Medium - High School Student Self-Portrait Show

See the exhibition "Meaning and Medium," and meet the artists who have explored portraiture through fresh eyes.

Tuesday, May 17, 10:30 a.m. - Baby Loves Art - Over the Rainbow

An entertaining and interactive way for children ages three and under and their caregivers to experience the educational stimulation that the visual arts can provide. Advance registration is required. To register, call (916) 808-5499 or email education@crockerartmuseum.org. Free with Museum admission. This program is funded by the First 5 Sacramento Commission.

The Crocker Art Museum is located at 216 O Street in Downtown Sacramento. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday to Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday to Sunday. For more information, call (916) 808-7000 or visit crockerartmuseum.org.

Community Rummage Sale

May 7, Community Rummage Sale, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 9601 Lake Natoma Drive, Orangevale. On Saturday, find toys, books, housewares, appliances, clothing, puzzles, tools, hobbyist, handwork items, crafts, furniture. Come buy or sell! Register for your own 10 x 12 booth space and keep all your profits: cost \$20. Open to the public

at Palisades campus from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. To register, contact blippetti@sbcglobal.net. You must provide your name, address, telephone number, email and payment upon registering.

Palisades campus is located near the intersection of Madison Avenue and Greenback Lane. For more information call (916) 536-0476 or visit www.wix.com/silvercarla/rummage

Let's all sing like the birdies sing!

Hey kids! Spring is here and so are your fine feathered friends. Can you find the different types of birds? They're all hidden in the jumble of letters in the puzzle block. Some are easy to spot because they're spelled horizontally and forwards, but others are vertical, diagonal, and even backwards, so go to it and see how many birdies you can find.

H T Z B H A W K K B W B L R A X S
 F U J H U N L W O K W R T Y D W A
 A L M Q X M A X Q L U H A J A N N
 L K A M N H M C U R Z J M N G B D
 C V X T I O I G A T E A G L E K P
 O O T X C N N K I U N B Q C L O I
 N G V N K B G O L E V O D A H N P
 T N N I O T O B L U E B I R D V E
 N I R B D C O R I O L E L D B B R
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 S A W R E N T O T J D E H N T N T
 A L H Z D V Q L W B U Z Z A R D V
 E F G N L A R K J H G D N L J O Q
 H N E V A R O L M T Y A J E U L B
 P V W A R B L E R Q W O R R A P S

Bluebird

Finch

Quail

Bluejay

Flamingo

Raven

Buzzard

Hawk

Robin

cardinal

Hummingbird

Sandpiper

crow

Lark

Sparrow

Dove

oriole

Swan

Eagle

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warbler

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Annual Art Fiesta

The 53rd Annual Art Fiesta takes place Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5. Art Fiesta is free and open to the public. It will be held at Town and Country Village, on the corner of Fulton and Marconi Avenues, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Sponsored by the Sacramento-Suburban Kiwanis, Art Fiesta is a charity event attracting approximately 10,000 people to enjoy art work from more than 150 Northern California fine artisans. This year's art selection includes pottery, photography, metal work, paintings and glass work. The show is one of the oldest and largest outdoor fine art exhibitions.

For more information, contact Art Fiesta Chair Kristi Gordon Mattes at (916) 972-7337 or visit www.townandcountryartfiesta.org.

Moms, you're the greatest!

By Kathleen
Special to California Kids

I'm a mom. My kids are in their 30s now. I've been through the diapers, science fairs, book reports, scraped knees, cub scouts, gymnastics, t-ball, pee-wee soccer, bedtime stories, temperatures, tantrums, (sometimes mine). I've had refrigerators covered with artwork and notes, bugs in jars that always got out, jelly on the couch, gum in my hair, homework to remember, been a cupcake-maker for school birthdays, photographer at all holidays, and the happy receiver of many hugs and kisses. Yes, it's been great!

We moms do it all! We're counselors, teachers, nurses, cooks, maids, taxi drivers, referees, and coaches. We are our kids' security blankets, and their safe haven. We need to know when to be there; they need to know where we are; we give advice when the time is right and stay silent when it's tough to stay silent. We guide them and protect them and love them and then, one day, they walk out the door—but they never really go far. They still bring home the wash and eat the last of my leftovers that were meant for my dinner. Ah, motherhood.

We nurture them to adulthood, provide a good ear while they struggle with decisions about their life choices, college and loves. We do our best to make them feel better, no matter how old they get.

Moms are the ones—and you don't have to have children to

have a mothering nature—that friends, family, and even co-workers seem to come to, and depend on, to help solve a problem, find the missing sock, or just be a good listener.

With the kind of unconditional love that only a mother can provide, I was blessed with a terrific mom. And from her teaching, patience, support, and most of all, her humor, I've learned how irreplaceable mothers really are. So, all you moms and those who have that mothering instinct, I wish you a very happy Mother's Day. Enjoy it, sit back, reflect and smile at the memories, take out the scrapbook and laugh, honor the unforgettable experience of mothering, and have a wonderful day.



Children's "Plein Air" Painting and Art Show

Children Paint Nature on the American River Parkway!

Come paint nature and benefit the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, too! On Saturday, May 21, Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael's Ancil Hoffman Park will host a Children's Art Show and Sale for children ages 4 to 14. This event is part of the "Painting Where the Wild Things Are" Gala and Art Auction, a fundraiser for the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

Children participate in Plein Air Painting (painting in the fresh air) at Effie Yeaw Nature Center and the surrounding 77 acre preserve between 8 a.m. and noon, with the exhibition from 1 to 6 p.m.

Students may bring their own materials, or they can buy a watercolor kit (\$5.00) at the Nature Center. Subject matter for the paintings should be something found in nature along the American River Parkway.

If students are unable to participate in the Plein Air event, they can bring a finished 2-di-

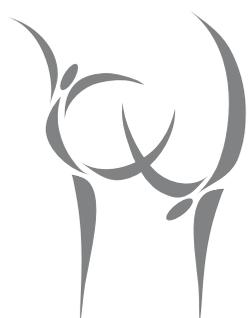
mensional artwork of nature along the American River Parkway to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center on Saturday, May 21 between 8 a.m. and noon. Artwork must be original, no larger than 15" by 18", mounted or matted, no frames or glass.

All artwork entered into the Children's Art Show will be offered for sale between 1 to 6 p.m. at the Gala event on May 21. Every piece will be priced at \$20. Proceeds from the sale will be split 50/50 between the artist and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

This is a great experience for budding artists, scientists, and appreciating the Nature Center!

A wonderful group project, combining art with observing nature!

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center is located at 2850 San Lorenzo Way, (California Avenue and Tarshes Drive) in Carmichael. Parking is \$5 for park entrance.



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Who Wrote That?

The Creators of Your Child's Favorite Books

Featuring **Kim Norman**

By **Patricia M. Newman**

Kim Norman recalls a big-family childhood in Virginia, long vacations at Lake Kezar in Maine, and a love of art which grew into a profession as a graphic designer. But Norman reflects that her teachers talked more about her writing than her art. From an early age Norman absorbed the sound and flow of language through fairy tales, poetry, and the old Uncle Remus tales (despite their racial overtones). "I loved the cadence of the language," she says. "I used to have dialogues in my head, conversations almost like a TV script, hearing two people speak." Norman knows now that her dialogues were all about the rhythm of the words.

In her work as a graphic artist for her local newspaper Norman never entertained the notion of becoming an author, but words continued to impress her. She found her way into writing as an adult, first with light verse, then romance novels because she heard it was easy to break into the field in that genre, but her heart was not in it. "I didn't like to read [romance novels] so I didn't like to write them," she says. With the birth of her first child, Norman borrowed books from the library. As she read them aloud to her first, and then her second son, she learned to appreciate the rhythm, the rhyme, and the conciseness of the stories. When Norman tried her hand at writing picture books, she says, "I felt at home with [them]."

Norman wrote her first book, *Jack of all Tails*, in prose because she had heard at writers' conferences that editors do not like rhyming picture books, but Norman is drawn to rhyme. "It's the one kind of writing that sucks me back to the desk.



Other kinds of writing feel like homework." When someone (she has no idea who) came up with the name Crocodaddy in her backyard pool, she recalled her days at the lake with her father. "He was the one who would roughhouse and throw you off his shoulders," she says. Her mind turned the word over and over until she came up with the lighthearted "Crocodaddy, Crocodaddy, watcha gonna do?" But one line does not make a book, and Norman says, "You have to have some tension, conflict, how is he going to stalk [Crocodaddy], how is he going to tame him." Children love the humor in *Crocodaddy*, but parents appreciate the sweetness of the father/child interaction.

Ten on a Sled started as a title—a take-off on the song "Ten in a Bed." "The title just came to me and I said to myself, 'Oh, that's good.'" Her first draft of the book followed the song closely, but one of her critique partners who is also an illustrator told her to remember the animal characters are careening down a hill on a sled, not rolling around in a bed. He suggested turning the book into a race. A stroke of brilliance with visual and rhythmic appeal. Norman set the book in the Arctic and researched several native species, finally selecting ten. Although the sheep in the story comes across as a generic sheep, Normans says, "I know personally that it's a Dahl sheep." Despite the snow on the ground,

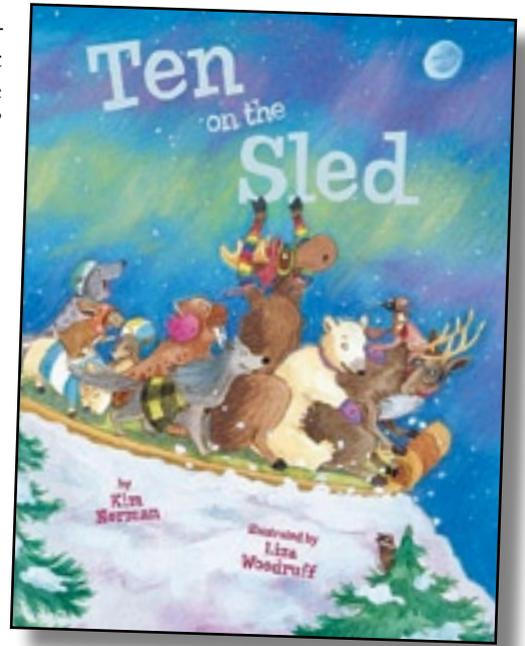
Ten on a Sled takes place in the summer on a mountaintop in the Arctic so the illustrator could incorporate the various colors of the animals' summer coats. "Winter in the Arctic is dark and most of the animals would be white," Norman says.

Norman's forthcoming *I Know A Wee Piggy Who Wallowed in Brown* is her homage to the song "I Know An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly" using the same rhyme scheme. "I always wanted to do a version of [that song]," she says. "I was laying in bed one morning and you know when you wake up your head's a little muzzy, I thought 'You know a wee piggy who wallowed in brown.'" Instead of food, Norman's story focuses on colors as her wee piggy visits the county fair.

Song plays a large role in Norman's life. Not only are two of her picture books based on children's songs, but she used to sing professionally on stage. "I am a Broadway geek," she says with a laugh. Her rich alto voice belted out songs filled with emotion when she performed. School children get a small taste of Norman's talent during school visits when she performs her "Storytime Boogie."

Norman writes from her home in Smithfield, Virginia and describes her writing process as eclectic. On her more disciplined mornings she starts right in on a story. "Sometimes I get up hours before anyone else and tuck myself into bed with my laptop on my lap." If she is working on a longer manuscript she says, "I can go days and weeks without turning out new work."

When Norman's sons were small, she read each of them three books at naptime and three books at bedtime. That's 4,380 books a year. One parenting fact that

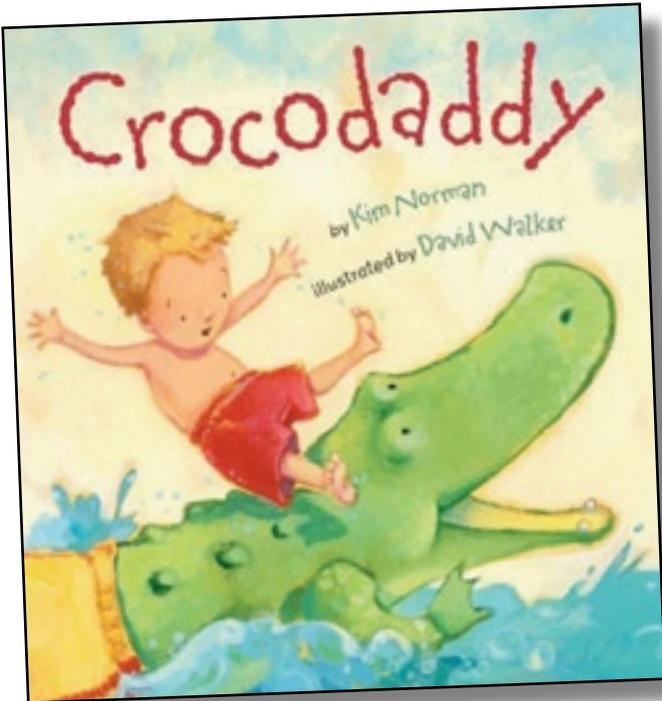


sticks in her mind is a child who has read 1,000 books before starting school enters with a big advantage. Norman hopes that she helps you meet your reading goal by writing fun, rhythmic books that your children will love.

Next month: Natalie Kinsey-Warlock

Patricia Newman is the author of Jingle the Brass (Farrar, Straus & Giroux), recommended by the Smithsonian National American History Museum. Her newest book, Nugget on the Flight Deck (Walker), received the California Reading Association's Eureka! Silver Honor Award for excellence in children's nonfiction. Visit her website at www.patriciamnewman.com to watch the trailer.

Who Wrote That? is a monthly column that profiles the talented authors and illustrators who bring children's books to life.



MORE ABOUT KIM NORMAN

HOW TO CONTACT KIM NORMAN
Website: www.kimnormanbooks.com

SELECTIONS FROM KIM NORMAN'S LIBRARY

- Storytime Stickers: Whales*, Sterling, 2011.
- Ten on the Sled*, Sterling, 2010.
- All Kinds of Kittens*, Sterling, 2010.
- Crocodaddy*, Sterling, 2009.
- Jack of All Tails*, Dutton, 2007.

Upcoming

- I Know A Wee Piggy Who Wallowed in Brown*, Dial, 2012
- Storytime Stickers: Dinosaurs*, Sterling, forthcoming
- Undercover Claus*, Sterling, forthcoming.



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Seven Questions Parents Should Ask When Choosing a Camp

As summer vacation gets closer, parents may decide to send their children to summer camp. Many families find it difficult to choose, especially when the diversity of camps today reflects the diversity of America. There is truly a camp for every child, every interest, and every budget. The American Camp Association® (ACA) Northern California recommends that parents ask the following questions to get a better feel for which camp experience best suits their child:

1. What is the camp's philosophy and program emphasis?

Each camp has its own method of constructing programs based on its philosophy. Does it complement your family's philosophy? Does the camp focus on learning through competition, or through cooperative learning? How does the camp handle homesickness and other adjustment issues?

2. What is the camp director's background?

ACA recommends directors possess a bachelor's degree, have completed in-service training within the past three years, and have at least 16 weeks of camp administrative experience before assuming the responsibilities of director.

3. What training do counselors receive?

At a minimum, camp staff should be trained in safety regulations, emergency procedures and communication, behavior management techniques, child abuse prevention, appropriate staff and camper behavior, and specific procedures for supervision.

4. How are behavioral and disciplinary problems handled?

This is where the director's philosophy comes through loud and clear. Do they use positive reinforcement? What are the rules and consequences?

5. How does the camp handle special needs?

For a child with special requirements, parents should ask the camp director about needed provisions and facilities. Is there a nurse on staff? A designated place to store insulin or allergy medicine? Are special foods available for campers with restricted diets?

6. What about references?

Parents should ask for references. This is generally one of the best ways to check a camp's reputation and service record.

7. Is the camp accredited by the American Camp Association?

Why? Why not? - ACA-Accredited® camps meet up

to 300 health and safety standards. This does not guarantee a risk-free environment, but it's some of the best evidence parents have of a camp's commitment to a safe and nurturing environment for their children.

Once you have answers to these questions, the next step in choosing a camp is to research your options. A great place to start is the ACA's online searchable database of ACA-Accredited® camps in California at <http://www.acanorcal.org/findcamp.php>. For more information about summer camps in general, visit www.CampParent.org and www.ACACamps.org.

About ACA

The American Camp Association® (ACA) works to preserve, promote, and enhance the camp experience for children and adults. ACA-Accredited® camp programs ensure that children are provided with a diversity of educational and developmentally challenging learning opportunities. There are over 2,400 ACA-accredited camps that meet up to 300 health and safety standards. For more information, visit <<http://www.ACACamps.org>>

HELP YOUR kids FLOAT safely THROUGH SUMMER

Life Jacket Trade-in Event

12th Annual Department of Boating and Waterways Life Jacket Trade-in Event

Date: Friday, May 27, 2011 • 4 – 6 p.m.
Location: Kohl's Department Stores in the Sacramento area

Parents, the weather is getting warmer. If your family enjoys cooling off in Sacramento's waterways please be sure that your children float safely through summer. Bring your children and their life jackets for inspection by water safety professionals at a Sacramento area Kohl's store on May 27th, 4 to 6 p.m. If the life jacket is found to be unserviceable a new one of the appropriate size will be given in exchange. One life jacket per family while supplies last.

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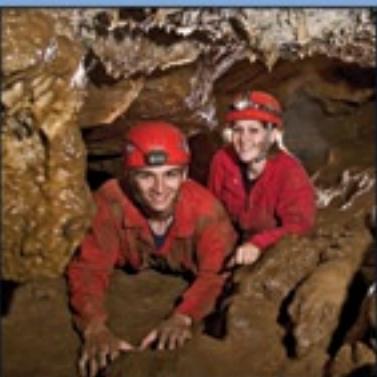
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Ready, Set, Camp!

Finding the Right Camp for Your Child

Courtesy of The American Camp Association

You are considering a summer camp, but how to choose? There's a camp that is ideally suited for every child, providing a summer of growth and fun whether your child attends a day or overnight camp, a specialized or traditional camp. The camp professionals at the American Camp Association® (ACA) Northern California have some sound advice to help parents sort through the choices and benefits that camp delivers.

How to Decide if Your Child is Ready for Camp

Children are ready for new experiences at different stages. Parents know their children best and

these questions can help gauge whether this is the summer your child will start camp. Here are some factors to consider:

- What is your child's age? Children under age seven may not adjust easily to being away from home. Consider the day camp experience to prepare them for future overnight camp.
- How did your child become interested in camp? Does your child talk about camp on a sustained basis? How much persuasion is necessary from you?
- Has your child had positive overnight experiences away from home? Visiting relatives or friends? Were these separations easy or difficult?
- What does your child expect to do at camp? Learning about the camp experience ahead of time allows you to create positive expectations.
- Are you able to share consistent and positive messages about camp? Your confidence in a positive experience will be contagious.

For more information, visit www.ACANorCal.org or www.Camp-Parents.org.

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June 20 - 24, 2011 • 10 am - 12 Noon

Our week long camp will focus on learning the character benefits of courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self control and indomitable spirit!

Camps are \$150 per week

{ Sign up for any session by May 15 and receive 15% discount
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Let's go camping!

Hey kids! It's time to start planning your camping adventure! Camp is a place where everyone can enjoy outdoor activities and make new friends. Have fun searching for the hidden words related to camping. Look carefully, words can appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backwards and upside-down.

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 A F D A T E X P L O R I N G N
 C B A C K P A C K X M S T E G
 K V A M N P G T A M A L E P C
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Advertise in **California Kids!** Call Marc for more information!
916.429.9901

2011 Children's Summer Art Classes

For All Local Young Artists: June 20 - July 29, 2011
 Learn basic techniques in Fine Arts & Sculpting:
 Drawing, painting, collage, pastels, printmaking & sculpting.

Grades 1-6 **Fine Arts Classes**
 Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am
 Two groups: Grades 1-3 & Grades 4-6
 Tuition \$65.00 per week
A different class each week – no repeats!

BEGINS June 20 thru July 29, 2011 (Closed Mon, July 4)
 Week of July 4th is a 4 day week

Limited Space: Register Early!
 Applications available by mail or at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center or on our website. Registration includes all art supplies and snacks.

Come Visit Our Center:
 We have ongoing gallery exhibits free to the public. Adult art classes, workshops, & art clubs. Free day and evening demonstrations. We have lots of brochures & information for you at the Center.

If Interested:
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 916.971.3713



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Woodland
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Plumas Lake
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916.231.9622

- Y Camp activities provide an overall camp experience through arts, crafts, swimming, field trips, recreation games, songs, and skits.
- Y camp memories will last a lifetime!
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- The YMCA is committed to being accessible to all, and works hard to support those who may be in challenging financial situations. Financial assistance is offered to the extent that funds are available.

www.ymcasuperiorcal.org

California Celebration at the Zoo

Come to the Sacramento Zoo's California Celebration Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Celebrate California's diversity, culture and wildlife through art, museums, cultural organizations and performers throughout the Zoo. Face painting, free children's crafts with Zoo teens and ed-zoo-cation stations staffed by Docent volunteers all promise to make this a day of great family fun!

Participants will include the Jinan, China-Sacramento Sister Cities Corporation, Camellia City Porcelain Artists, Education First and individual local artists whose art embodies California nature and animals. Darby Patterson, creator of the Zoo's Orangutan busts and penguin sculpture will have some of her more current works available for visitors to view. Special guest Fred Krakowiak, artist and author, will be creating a "dye on silk" painting onsite. Also, take a self-guided tour of the art displayed throughout Zoo grounds. The Zoo is a proud host to many pieces by local artists such as: Terrence Martin of Jagged Edge Metal Art and Trent Meyer.

New this year is the Gallery Artisans Tour, a group of locally renowned artists who create everything from custom art and home décor, to jewelry and accessories that are "art to wear." A few of these artists include: Jazzy Jewelz by Nancy, Tiptoe Art Studio, That Crafty Lady, Sally White Photography, Patricia Williams Art, Classy Glass, Marcia Munich, Richard Vierra, Jacqueline Blondeau, and GaGa Girl Accessories. The Gallery Artisans will also be raffling off hand-picked pieces of art to raise funds for the Zoo.

Throughout the day, cultural performances and interactive activities take place on the Reptile House Lawn. Visitors of all ages will have a chance to learn how to hula from the Kaulumele Polynesian Dance Troupe and to enjoy some moves from local Kung-Fu Master, Janny Wu. Also performing will be Balliamo! Traditional Italian Dance Troupe and the Irish American Cēili Dancers.

Learn about California native animals and other species at the Zoo P.I. Critter Caper at 11 a.m. and the Wildlife Stage Show at 1:30 p.m. on the amphitheater stage. Be sure to stick around afterwards to meet the animal actors up close and personal. Afternoon Keeper Chats at 2:15, 2:30 and 2:45 p.m. take place at the Kookabura, Tawny frogmouth, and Kangaroo exhibits.

Located near the corner of Land Park Drive and Sutterville Road in William Land Park, the Zoo is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., general admission is \$11; children ages 2 to 11 are \$7 and one and under are admitted free. Parking is free throughout the park or ride Regional Transit bus #6. For information, call (916) 808-5888 or visit saczoo.org.



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Calendar of Events

Arts & Crafts

May 4, 11, 18 and 25, Youth and Family Program, 11 a.m., 216 O Street, Sacramento. Bring your little one and yourself to the Crocker Art Museum for the gallery-based art activity for children ages three to five. This is a family program and space is limited. Signup begins at 10 a.m. on the day of the event at the Museum Admission Desk. Free with Museum admission. For more information, call (916) 808-7000 or visit crockerartmuseum.org.

May 17, Baby Loves Art-Over the Rainbow, 10:30 a.m. 216 O Street, Sacramento. Come to the Crocker Art Museum for an entertaining and interactive way for children ages three and under and their caregivers to experience the educational stimulation that the visual arts can provide. Advance registration is required. To register, call (916) 808-5499 or education@crockerartmuseum.org. Free with Museum admission.

May 21, Children Art Show, 8 a.m. to Noon, 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Children's "Plein Air" painting and art show at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Effie Yeaw Nature Center, located

in Ancil Hoffman Park, will host a Children's Art Show and Sale for children ages 4 to 14. Children will participate in Plein Art Painting (painting in the fresh air). Students can bring their own materials, or they can buy a watercolor kit for \$5 at the center. All artwork will be offered for sale. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

Critter Events

May 14, Things that Slither, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. What has no arms or legs and smells with its tongue? Learn about the life cycles, predators and prey, habitats, locomotion and defenses of reptiles and amphibians. Then "slither" up to meet the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's resident animals up close. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

May 21, Fairytale Town Event, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. Celebrate agriculture awareness at the fourth annual "Farms, Friends, and Fairytales." Arrive early to watch the twin Babydoll sheep, Lucy and Ethel, get sheared, then watch as a wool spinner spins the wool into thread using an old fashioned spinning wheel. Enjoy agriculture-themed hands on activities, a mini-

farmer's market and visit with local area farms and organizations to learn more about California's rich agriculture history. Weekend park admission is \$4.50 per person and children one and under are admitted free. For more information, call (916) 808-7462.

Especially for Parents

May 20, Mother's Safety Clinic, 6:30 p.m., All Locations. Mom's can learn basic self-defense at this free one-hour clinic celebrating Mother's on May 20. Instructors will help women learn basic escapes, discuss criminal assaults, locales and share empowering strategies to avoid conflict and attacks. Register online at www.robinsonstkd.com or call (916) 783-3191.

Nature Events

May 7, Mother Nature Stroll, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Celebrate the beauty of Springs' arrival at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, with someone special on a delightful guided walk through the Nature Area on Mother's Day. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

May 28, Native Plant Walk, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Join a naturalist at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center located in Ancil Hoffman Park on a walk to learn and identify some of the common native plants of our area. Explore ways people have used plants for food, medicine, clothing and shelter. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

Special Events

May 2, 9 and 16 (Mondays), 9:30 a.m. to Noon, Senior Tea and Tour, 3930 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. Have a pleasant cup of tea and a guided tour of the Sacramento Zoo. Designed especially for seniors ages 55 and over, your group will be met by Docents (volunteer educators) and will tour part of the Zoo. During the tea break you'll be served lemonade, tea, coffee, finger sandwiches, breads, and cookies. Seniors, register for this popular event early. Tours begin at 9:30 a.m. and two weeks advance registrations are required. This program is for adults 55 and over. Call (916) 808-5889 for more information or register at saczoo.org.

May 7, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., California Celebration, Festival of the Arts and Cultural Diversity, 3930 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. Come to the Sacramento Zoo for a day of cultural entertainment, art, music, dance and information from the rich cultural diversity that defines California. Art will be on display and for purchase from local and distinguished artists. Local museums, historical societies, genealogy groups, plus arts and crafts for great family fun all included with regular admission.

May 10, Homeschool Day, Noon to 2 p.m., 216 O Street, Sacramento. Homeschool and family groups are invited to visit the Crocker Art Museum regularly for thematic gallery adventures designed to intrigue children ages six and older. Advance registration is suggested. For pricing specifics and registration, visit crockerartmuseum.org or call (916) 808-1182.

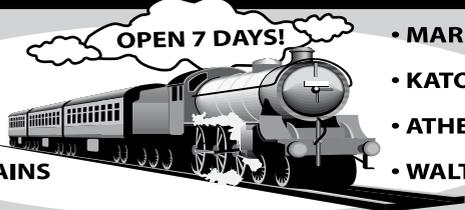
May 11 to June 26, Annual Puppet Festival, 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. Puppet Art Theater is back this Spring for another season at Fairytale Town. The season will be filled with music, puppetry chase scenes and fun! Five original shows will be performed in the Children's Theater. Puppet show tickets are \$1 members and \$2 nonmembers, children one and under are admitted free. This fee is in addition to paid park admission. The shows will be weekdays at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., On the weekends they will be held at 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. The lineup includes: May 11 to 22--Tommy's Train Troubles, May 25 to June 5--The Boy Who Cried Wolf and June 8 to 26--Jack and the Beanstalk. For more information, call (916) 808-7462.

May 14, Summer Youth Fair, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 2115 6th Street, near U Street, Downtown Sacramento. The fair, held at Southside Park, will highlight a wide range of opportunities for youth during the summer. There will also be a health component which will include various screenings for children and youth. The Summer Youth Fair's programs are offered by the local Parks and Recreation Departments. Young adults will be able to learn about employment and volunteer opportunities. Live entertainment from local groups, children's activities, snacks and a raffle are also included at the event, all free of charge.

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Calendar of Events

May 14, Drop, Yak, Splat! Museum Adventure for Families, 1 p.m., 216 O Street, Sacramento. Different artworks will provide inspiration for a memorable gallery experience for families and children of all ages. Sign up begins one hour before the start time at the Crocker Art Museum. Free with Museum admission. Also held on Sunday, May 15 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (916) 808-7000.

May 21, Sheep Shearing, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. Farmer Brown showcases Fairytale Town's friendly barnyard animals at the Fourth Annual Farms, Friends and Fairytales event. Visitors can see twin Babydoll sheep, Lucy and Ethel, lose their winter coats with an old fashioned sheep shearing. There will also be a wool spinner, and children can learn to make their own ice cream. During the event visitors can learn about the facility's animals. For more information, call (916) 808-7462.

May 21, Gardening Workshop, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. 11549 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks. Learn master Gardeners' favorite gardening ideas at this "Creative Solutions-Workshop." Learn about veggies in containers, on trellises, and how to water them. Choosing ornamental plants: Allstars, natives and more. Learn Master Gardeners' favorite gardening ideas. This is a free workshop. For more information, call (916) 875-6913.

May 23, Golf Tournament, 11:30 a.m., 44571 Clubhouse Drive, El Macero. Come out swinging for the Sacramento Zoo at the Tenth Annual Golf Tournament at El Macero Country Club. Golf, food, prizes and the wildest putting contest in the Sacramento area. The tournament sponsors the Sacramento Zoological Society's educational programs. For more information, call (916) 808-5166.

July 5, Summer Youth Theater Workshop, 607 Pena Drive, Davis. Registration is now open for Davis Musical Theatre Company's Young Performers' Theatre summer workshop: Introduction to Musical Theatre. Instruction by Jan Isaacson and Helen Spangler will include the basics of acting, singing, dance steps, vocal projection and other basic performance skills through theater games, improvisation and beginning scene study. The workshop begins on July 5 and culminates in a recital of songs and scenes performed Thursday, July 28, at 7 p.m. Registration packets available at www.dmtc.org or at the DMTC Performing Arts Center.

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Baseball Birthday Party Ideas

Fun ideas to make a Baseball Birthday Party special and memorable.

Invitations: Create a Sport or Event type ticket with your child's name as the Main event. There are many types of baseball tickets—make a mock copy of your favorite teams ticket. Check Flickr for examples. Not crafty? There are many online stores that sell Event Ticket theme invitations. Make or buy invitations in the shape of baseballs, baseball fields, hotdogs or crackerjacks. If you have, or can buy, several used baseballs - write the party information on them with a ball point pen or permanent marker.

Decorations: Decorate your Baseball theme party using the colors of your favorite baseball team. Use balloons and streamers to make it festive. Make or buy team pennants to hang on the walls along with baseball jerseys and team/player posters. Cover tables with green tablecloths and set them at an angle like a baseball diamond—place

bases around the edges. Paint a fake crowd scene on cardboard or poster board and place behind the tables for the bleachers. On the tables put out baseballs, trophies, gloves and baseball cards.

Fun Ideas: Take the birthday party guests to the batting cage and let them hit several rounds of balls. If you will be having your party outside make a large baseball diamond on the ground using chalk or spray paint. Set up stands using picnic tables. Have parents and older helpers dress up like umpires. Have guests sign a baseball for the birthday child to keep as a great memento of the day.

Games and Activities

- Gather baseball cards and play name that player – or name the stats. See who can get the most correct answers.
- World Series - give each guest paper and a pencil and ask them to write down as many of the World Series winners and the years that

they can. Present the winner with a prize or baseball cards.

- Play Wiffle ball - same rules as baseball, just safer for the backyard.
- Set up carnival type games using baseball skills such as knocking over a pyramid of bottles with a baseball or throw a baseball (or beanbag) through holes on a cardboard cutout for accuracy. (Paint the cardboard to look like a baseball diamond).
- Pin the Baseball on the Diamond - Played just like Pin the Tail on the Donkey only have the guests pin a baseball on a baseball diamond. The closest one to home plate is the winner.
- Fun competitions: Who can throw the baseball the farthest? Who can hit the baseball the farthest? Longest slide? Who can get to base the fastest and not get out (put player in between two bases with players on each base trying to tag him out).
- Tie up a baseball-themed piñata and let the kids have some batting practice trying to open it.
- Rent a Baseball/Sports theme bounce house or moonwalk. Some even have batting cages.
- Attend a Major or Minor League baseball game. Most leagues have special prices and seating for birthday parties. Many will have food, baseball hats, autographs and cake included in their price. See individual team websites.
- Make large pennants in your favorite team colors and let the kids decorate them with foam stickers, cut-outs or glue/glitter.

Food: Set out a table full of baseball park favorites such as hotdogs, nachos, popcorn, cotton candy, Cracker Jacks, or peanuts. For desserts serve ice cream and cake in small plastic baseball helmets (these also make a great party favor and/or Goody Bag!). Or try cupcakes frosted with white icing and piped on baseball laces in red or black frosting.

Party Favors: Plastic baseball helmets, Baseball themed pens and pencils, Baseball cards – check with the major league websites to see if they offer free cards, Shaped baseball theme candy, Baseball team related items – check with major league baseball websites to see if they will send free items, Baseballs, Baseball team stickers, Team posters.

For more ideas visit

www.BirthdayPartyIdeas4Kids.com

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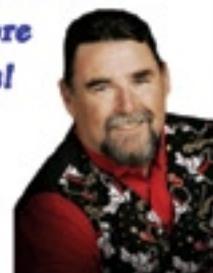
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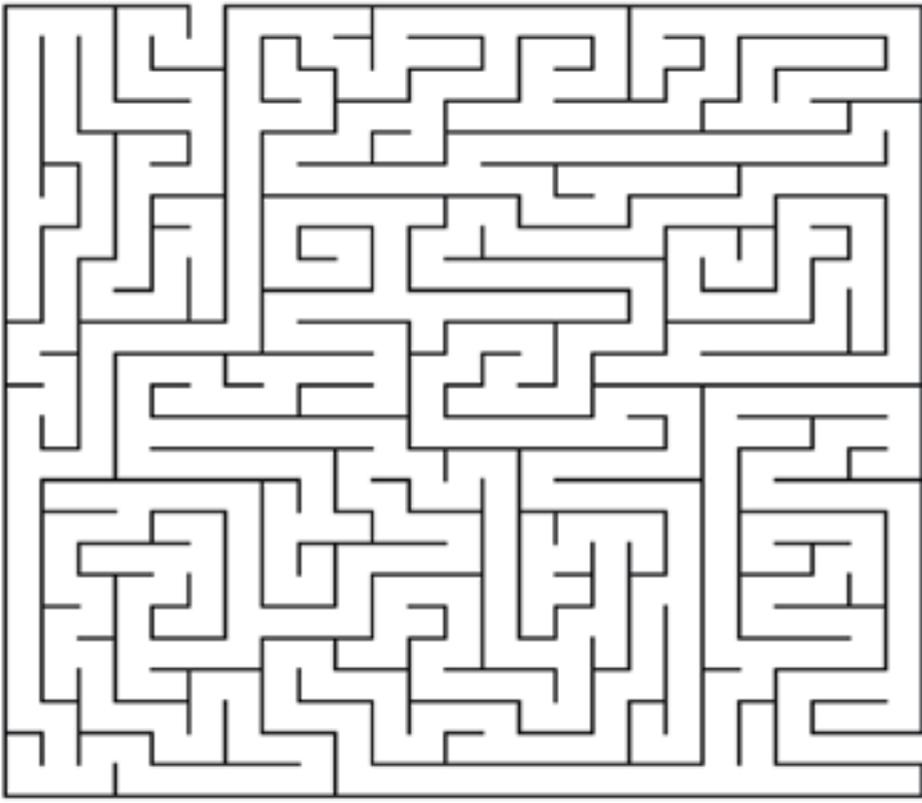




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